

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE WITH BAR CODE READER FOR
OBTAINING PRODUCT INFORMATION FROM MULTIPLE DATABASES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A communication system including a personal communication device that
allows a user to communicate over the Internet with a network of multiple remote
databases and to search the databases for desired product-related information from any
location. The communication device includes an input mechanism, such as a bar code
scanner or OCR reader, for entering product information such as product codes from
product labels. The communication device establishes a communication link with a
communications server, and the product information is transmitted to the server, which
interfaces with one or more product information libraries to determine a product identifier
10 based on the input product information. The product identifier is used by the server to
search various databases over the Internet for desired product-related information in
response to a search query from the user.